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CONSUMER PROTECTION DIV.

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July 31, 2015

Via First Class U.S. Mail

Iowa Attorney General Consumer Protection Division 1305 E. Walnut Street Des Moines, IA 50319

**Notice of Data Event** 

Dear Sir/Madame:

Our office represents SterlingBackcheck, 1 State Street Plaza, 24th Floor, New York, New York 10004. We are writing to provide you with notice of an event that may impact the security of personal information relating to certain Iowa residents. The investigation into this event is ongoing, and this notice will be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission, including the total number of impacted Iowa residents. By providing this notice, SterlingBackcheck does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Iowa law or personal jurisdiction.

## Background

SterlingBackcheck provides background screening services to clients located in, among other geographic areas, the United States, seeking background information relating to job applicants. During provision of these services, SterlingBackcheck receives personally identifiable information of job applicants, either directly from the job applicants themselves or from the SterlingBackcheck clients to which the applicants applied for employment.

On May 29, 2015, a laptop used by a SterlingBackcheck employee was stolen from the employee's vehicle. SterlingBackcheck learned of the incident on May 30, 2015, notified law enforcement, and launched an investigation to determine the types of information that may have been stored on the laptop at the time of the theft and to whom this information relates.

While SterlingBackcheck's investigation into this event is ongoing, it has determined an Excel file containing the names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth, of certain applicants may have been stored on the laptop at the time of the theft. SterlingBackcheck is unaware of any actual or attempted misuse of the personally identifiable information contained in this Excel file.

## Notice to Iowa Residents

This file contained information relating to certain Iowa residents who provided their personal information directly to SterlingBackcheck. SterlingBackcheck anticipates that written notice of this incident to these Iowa residents will begin on or about the week of August 3, 2015.

This file may have contained personally identifiable information relating to certain Iowa residents that SterlingBackcheck received directly from its clients, and not from the applicants. On or about the week of August 3, 2015, SterlingBackcheck is providing notice of this incident to these impacted clients, and offering to satisfy these impacted clients' respective obligations to disclose this incident to the potentially impacted individuals and regulators and consumer reporting agencies, where required.

## Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken

SterlingBackcheck's investigation into this incident is ongoing. SterlingBackcheck is offering those individuals impacted by this incident and to whom it is legally obligated or permitted to notify with access to at least one free year of credit monitoring and identity restoration services with AllClear ID, and is providing these individuals with helpful information on how to protect against identity theft and fraud. SterlingBackcheck is taking steps to mitigate the risk that an event like happens again by, among other things, reviewing data security, privacy, technology, and asset inventory procedures, retraining its employees on data security and privacy protocols, and installing encryption and remote deletion software on mobile devices. In addition to providing notice of this incident to your office, SterlingBackcheck is providing notice of this incident to other regulators and consumer reporting agencies where required.

## **Contact Information**

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of this event, please contact us at 215-977-4081.

Very truly yours,

Jennifer A. Coughlin of

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

JAC:sn